

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

LAPHILL KNOX

Plaintiff,

v.

**TRANS UNION RENTAL
SCREENING SOLUTIONS, INC.,**

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO.

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer against the Defendant for violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (hereafter the “FCRA”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681 *et seq.*, as amended.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Laphill Knox is an adult individual who resides in Fontana, CA.

3. Defendant Trans Union Rental Screening Solutions, Inc. (hereafter “TURSS”) is a consumer reporting agency that regularly conducts business in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and has a primary office at 1510 Chester Pike, Crum Lynne, Pennsylvania 19022.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. Jurisdiction of the Court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1681p and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

5. Venue lies properly in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. In or around April 2020, Plaintiff was attempting to secure housing with NovaPoint Apartments, (“NovaPoint”).

7. As part of Plaintiff's rental application, NovaPoint obtained a consumer report from Defendant.

8. Defendant's report contained derogatory and inaccurate information about Plaintiff.

9. Defendant has been reporting, and did here report, derogatory and inaccurate statements and information relating to Plaintiff to third parties ("inaccurate information").

10. The inaccurate information includes, but is not limited to, sealed civil records that are not available publicly, and not permitted to be reported.

11. The inaccurate information grossly disparages the Plaintiff.

12. In creating and furnishing the Plaintiff's consumer report, Defendant failed to follow reasonable procedures to assure the maximum possible accuracy of the information it reported about the Plaintiff.

13. In fact, even a rudimentary review of the relevant public records would reveal that the inaccurate information should not have reported on Plaintiff's consumer report.

14. Despite the glaring inaccuracy stated above, Defendant sold to NovaPoint a consumer report that contained the inaccurate information.

15. Defendant has sold reports containing the inaccurate information to third parties since at least April 2020.

16. Defendant has been reporting the inaccurate information through the issuance of false and inaccurate consumer reports that they have disseminated and resold to various persons, both known and unknown.

17. As a result of the inaccurate report Defendant sold to NovaPoint in April 2020, Plaintiff was denied housing with NovaPoint.

18. The basis for that denial was the inaccurate information that appears on Plaintiff's consumer report prepared by the Defendant, which was a substantial factor for the denial.

19. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages in the form of lost rental opportunities, harm to reputation, and emotional distress, including humiliation and embarrassment.

20. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant was acting by and through its agents, servants and/or employees who were acting within the course and scope of their agency or employment, and under the direct supervision and control of the Defendant herein.

21. At all times pertinent hereto, the conduct of the Defendant, as well as that of its agents, servants and/or employees, was malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, and in grossly negligent disregard for federal and state laws and the rights of the Plaintiff herein.

COUNT I - VIOLATIONS OF THE FCRA

22. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.

23. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant was a "person" and "consumer reporting agency" as those terms are defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(b) and (f).

24. At all times pertinent hereto, Plaintiff was a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c).

25. At all times pertinent hereto, the above-mentioned credit reports were "consumer reports" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d).

26. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n and 15 U.S.C. § 1681o, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for willfully and negligently failing to comply with the requirements imposed on a consumer reporting agency of information pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681e(b).

27. The conduct of Defendant was a direct and proximate cause, as well as a substantial factor, in bringing about the serious injuries, actual damages and harm to Plaintiff that are outlined more fully above and, as a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for the full amount of statutory, actual and punitive damages, along with the attorneys' fees and the costs of litigation.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

28. Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks judgment in Plaintiff's favor and damages against the Defendant, based on the following requested relief:

- (a) Actual damages;
- (b) Statutory damages;
- (c) Punitive damages;
- (d) Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- (e) Such other and further relief as may be necessary, just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

FRANCIS MAILMAN SOUMILAS, PC

/s/ Mark D. Mailman

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